



# REOPENING GUIDANCE PLACES OF WORSHIP OR NON-PROFITS PROVIDING FOOD SERVICES

For places of worship or non-profits that provide food services to their organization or community, the following tips can help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

- Train employees and volunteers to follow CDC guidance for [cleaning and disinfection](#), handwashing, social distancing, and respiratory etiquette
- Screen employees and volunteers before entering the building for symptoms such as fever (100.4°F), cough, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, or known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19
- Ensure that staff are washing their hands before and after handling/serving food and after any interactions with community members
- Make sure soap and paper towels are available at all hand sinks in restrooms and kitchens. Keep hand sanitizer available for staff and community members
- Visibly place signage around your organization to encourage [frequent hand washing](#) and other ways to help stop the spread of COVID-19
- Encourage all employees/volunteers to wear face coverings such as a mask, cloth mask, bandana, scarf or shield at all times, especially when serving or interacting with members of the community
- To help protect community members at higher risk of severe illness consider dedicating a certain time period to serve food to those individuals
- Increase routine cleaning frequencies and use [approved disinfectants](#) for restrooms, high traffic, and high touch surfaces
- Move tables apart to allow for social distancing and compliance with reopening occupancy limits
- Tables cannot seat more than 6 people
- Tables must not have condiments, silverware, glassware, or napkins on unoccupied tables and be cleaned and sanitized after each use
- Clean and disinfect tables, chairs, and any items that community members touch in between uses
- If you are serving food buffet style, you must have an employee/volunteer serve the food and:
  - Wash and change self-service utensils frequently
  - Monitor number of people in line for food to allow for social distancing
  - Provide hand sanitizer at the start of the line
  - Clean and sanitize all surfaces daily
- If you are serving food buffet style, you must have an employee/volunteer serve the food and:
  - Wash and change self-service utensils frequently

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## What To Do After a Person With a Suspected/Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Has Been in Your Facility?

- Close off areas used by the ill persons and wait up to 24 hours before beginning disinfection
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area
- Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas used by the ill persons, especially frequently touched surfaces
- Cleaning staff should wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process
- Cleaning staff should clean hands often, including immediately after removing gloves and after contact with an ill person, by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds

### Planning for Absenteeism

- Determine how you will operate with a reduced staff if employees cannot work due to illness, staying home to care for sick family members and those who must stay home to watch their children
- Prepare to institute flexible workplace and leave policies
- Cross-train employees to perform essential functions, so the workplace can operate even if key employees are absent

### Free COVID-19 Testing is Available for Everyone

We encourage business owners and employees to get free testing at a testing site. The updated online self-assessment tool is confidential and designed to serve the public in the Greater Houston area. To register for testing, visit <http://covidcheck.hctx.net/>. For those who do not have access to the online tool, call **832-927-7575** to get scheduled for testing. Free testing is available regardless of citizenship status and for those who are uninsured.

Employees should **not** return to work if they are sick. If an employee has a sick family member they live with or has been near an ill person, they should notify their employer immediately.

Please go to [www.hcphtx.org](http://www.hcphtx.org) for any additional information on how to keep yourself or employees safe during this pandemic.

\*People at higher risk for severe illness are those who are 65 or older, especially those with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.

### Additional Information is Available

[The Governor's Report to Open Texas](#)  
[CDC Business & Employer Resources](#)

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